

Message Text

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ACTION MC-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6563

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MILI, IV

SUBJECT: IVORIAN LAWS GOVERNING FIREARM IMPORTATION

REF: STATE 177789

1. EMBASSY REGRETS LATE RESPONSE TO REFTEL BUT EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED CLARIFICATION OF LAW FROM GOIC. REVISION OF IVORAIN REGULATIONS, DATED NOVEMBER 1975, DETAILS IMPORT PROCEDURE AS FOLLOWS:

2. IMPORTATION, SALE, TRANSPORTATION AND POSSESSION OF FIREARMS, COMPRESSED AIR GUNS, BULLETS, CARTRIDGES, AND GUNPOWDER ARE FORBIDDEN IN IVORY COAST WITHOUT SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION FOR EACH ITEM ADMITTED.

3. AUTHORIZATION TO IMPORT IS GRANTED BY MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE INTERIOR, DIRECTION GENERALE DE L'ADMINISTRATION TERRITORIALE, SERVICE DES ARMES ET DES MUNITIONS.

3. THIS PROCEDURE ALSO APPLIES TO FLARE GUNS AND ANY APPARATUS USED FOR SELF DEFENSE WHICH OPERATES BY THE PROJECTION OF LIQUID UNDER PRESURE WHICH CAN CHOKER, DAZZLE, OR PARALYZE.

4. SALE OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION IS REGULATED AND CAN ONLY BE UNDERTAKEN BY COMPANIES OR TRADERS AUTHORIZED

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TO DO SO BY A DECREE OF INTERIOR MINISTRY. THIS LICENSE

IS RESTRICTED TO THE COMPANY'S OR TRADER'S SPECIFIC USE
AND GOIC RESERVES RIGHT TO REVOKE LICENSE AT ANY TIME.

5. PROCEFURE FOR IMPORTATION BY RESIDENT FOREIGNER IS
AF FOLLOWS: FIREARM IS CLEARED BY CUSTOMS UPON RECEIPT
OF INTERIOR MINISTRY AUTHORIZATION TO IMPORT. AT SAME
TIME, LICENSE TO BEAR ARMS IS ISSUED; THIS SPECIFIES THAT
ARM IS RESTRICTED TO USE OF OWNER AND MUST BE RE-EXPORTED
WHEN OWNER LEAVES COUNTRY FOR GOOD.

6. IMPORTATION OF BULLETS AND CARTRIDGES IS AUTHORIZED
BY SAME AUTHORITIES AND FOLLOWS SAME PROCEDURE INVOLVING
AN AUTHORIZATION TO IMPORT AND A LICENSE TO CLEAR THE GOODS
THROUGH CUSTOMS.

7. AMMUNITION FOR RIFLES AND DEFENSIVE WEAPONS IS SOLD
BY APPROVED DISTRIBUTORS ON THE BASIS OF AN AUTHORIZATION
TO PURCHASE WHICH IS GRANTED BY THE INTERIOR MINISTRY.
AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE SHOTGUN CARTRIDGES IS GRANTED
BY THE PREFECTURAL AUTHORITIES WHERE APPLICANT RESIDES.
AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE AMMUNITION FOR HUNTING IS GRANTED
UPON PRESENTATION OF LICENSE TO BEAR ARMS AND POSSESSION OF
HUNTING LICENSE.

8. LICENSES FOR HUNTING SMALL GAME ARE GRANTED BY
PREFECTURAL AUTHORITIES TO INDIVIDUALS AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD
WHO HAVE A PERMIT TO BEAR ARMS. VALIDITY IS LIMITED TO
ONE HUNTING SEASON. LICENSES FOR HUNTING BIG GAME
ARE GRANTED BY OFFICES OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND
FORESTS; APPLICANT MUST BE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD.

9. NON-RESIDENT FOREIGNERS AND TOURISTS MUST DELCARE
FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION TO CUSTOMS ON ARRIVAL, WHERE
THEY ARE KEPT IN DEPOSIT UNTIL IMPORTER PRESENTS AN
AUTHORIZATION TO CLEAR THE ARUMS AND A TEMPORARY LICENSE
TO BEAR ARMS, BOTH OF WHICH ARE OBTAINED FROM INTERIOR
MINISTRY.

10. INTERIOR MINISTRY HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT SINCE
JANUARY 1, 1974 ALL HUNTING IS FORBIDDEN IN IVORY COAST
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UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THEREFORE, RESIDENT FOREIGNERS AND
TOURISTS ARE URGED NOT TO BRING FIREARMS WITH THEM SINCE
THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN HUNTING LICENSES IN THE
FORESEABLE FUTURE.
SMITH

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